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# Valley Women's Voice

NOVEMBER 1983

VOLUME V ISSUE 9

## FBI—A PERSONAL INVASION?

by Amy Hasbrouck

By now many people, but not all, know that the FBI is in the area asking a lot of questions. Though we may not know their immediate purpose when they knock at our door, we should know what the FBI is, how it operates, and what our rights are when questioned.

In theory, the FBI exists to investigate crimes against the U.S. Government, as identified by special statute. In practice, however, it is also the primary gatherer of domestic intelligence on any group or person the government wants investigated, including those who disagree with U.S. policies or with the government itself. Given the political climate of the Pioneer Valley, then, it is not surprising that the FBI is here.

The FBI gets some data from documents—birth certificates, drivers' licenses, school and court records, etc.

But most of their information comes from personal contacts. They may question your family, friends, co-workers, teachers, neighbors or employers if you are their target. To investigate a group, they may select dissatisfied or insecure members and take advantage of their emotional needs. Electronic and physical surveillance is still another way to get information.

To get the answers they seek, the FBI counts on their reputation ("...of course one answers at once and truthfully-or ELSE!"), on people's feeling of loyalty to one's government, the element of surprise, and on people's ignorance of both the purpose of the questions and their own rights. The FBI relies on a kind of passive compliance which we need not give.

If we realize that the FBI has no power over us UNTIL WE ANSWER questions, that the government is not necessarily acting in our or our friends'

best interest, and that we have a right to consult a lawyer before saying one word, we can be somewhat prepared for the Feds.

The FBI IS authorized to: 1) make searches—if they have a warrant or can show "probable cause" 2) serve subpoenas 3) make arrests—if warranted.

The FBI is NOT authorized to: 1) issue subpoenas 2) arrest one for not cooperating with an investigation 3) force one to answer questions 4) force one to look at or identify the subject of a photograph.

It is important to remember that lying to an FBI agent is a crime. All in all, it is better to say nothing. The best answer to give a questioning FBI agent is simply, "I cannot speak with you until I consult my lawyer." You need not admit them to your house or apartment. If they say they have a warrant, demand to see it. Tell them to submit any questions, in writing, to your law-

yer. Most of all, don't waver. A little information, rather than turning them away, makes them persist all the harder.

If you or someone you know might be subject to an FBI investigation, it is important to warn friends and family and to tell them of their rights. Unity and information-sharing are crucial, as one FBI tactic is to create distrust and division within groups they hope to eliminate.

So spread the word to keep quiet.

For more information, call GALA at 586-9340 or contact the Grand Jury Project, 853 Broadway, NY, NY 10003, (212) 674-6005.

Information given above was obtained from "You, Your Rights, and the FBI", a publication of the Grand Jury Project of the National Lawyers Guild, 853 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10003. □

## POLITICS: A WOMAN'S PRIORITY!

by Phyllis Rodin

Feminism in 1983, is no longer a nasty word applied to groups of 'trouble-makers' like the handful of women who, in 1968, followed Betty Freidan out of the President's Commission on the International Women's Year to engage in more meaningful discussion. Women talking to women about women and their basic needs gave birth to the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Washington, D.C. It also gave rise to a vitalizing literature that established a feminist philosophy with a global perspective. Investigation led to the revelation of *what* it really is that keeps women in tow and opened up the whole demand for reproductive rights. It became apparent *how* women have been oppressed through the ages and *why* women are still at the bottom of the economic ladder. It all seemed to point to political power.

For seventeen useful, productive years, feminists wrote, met, campaigned, marched, taught, studied and worked at home and abroad. They shared ideas and hopes, problems and doubts...and their growing understanding that the Old Boys' Club, locally

and globally, had no intention of conceding even the most insignificant demand, no matter how justified.

Women soon realized, as they made the rounds of legislators and legislatures, if they were to have their needs met, their only hope lay in electing legislators who would introduce and work to pass appropriate legislation and who would ensure the appointment of administrators who would distribute the benefits equitably without discrimination because of sex. Only then could women hope to be freed from the physical, economic, social, psychological bondage that ensures male dominance over female existence. But the more women tried and the more women edged into forbidden territory, the more apparent it became that male-controlled systems do not, never have and never will encourage women to behavior or opportunity equal to that of men. Women learned that if inequality is to be erased from social practice, then it would be women who would have to erase it. So feminists went to work.

NOW selected reproductive rights and equal constitutional rights as top priorities. Both issues have become the

measuring rod for feminist support of candidates in primaries and elections. Women pounded pavements, knocked on doors, made the rounds of countryside, lectured in churches, and schools, at rallies, and picnics, sat in on legislative sessions and were led down the garden path by the empty promises of corrupt politicians, attacked and humiliated by conservative elements. In their determination to have women recognized as persons for the first time in the Constitution of the United States, American women, more than ever before, became aware of how insidious, how ubiquitous, how effective the 'Old Boys' Network' really is.

Lessons from the vituperative campaign against reproductive rights taught feminists to not make the generic mistake to expect that a human being would be sympathetic to the cause of women against social injustice, just because she was female. But it was from the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment that feminists emerged as tested campaigners, as seasoned politicians. The ERA may not have become law this time around but it was an important stage in the growth of the Feminist movement. It gave feminists

the opportunity to study firsthand why it is imperative to the 'Control Boys' that the female sector of America be relegated to a lesser position in American society. Most important, feminists gained the respect of Democratic candidates, at all levels, who are now seeking support from this newly-organized party machine.

Over the years, NOW put the pieces together. Membership rose to a cool quarter of a million. In the struggles for economic and social equality the goal was to move forward to the time when America would recognize women's contribution to the economy...when women would share equally the fruits of American progress. Homemakers' years of unpaid labor was recognized with the passage of the Displaced Homemakers Bill, though not on a domestic level, with guaranteed benefits and security. Hope rose that, with the passage of Affirmative Action, more and more women would have equal access to jobs at higher levels of employment. Women would have the economic power to demand fair compensation based on skills, experience and education. They would have equal

see Politics page 7





## WOMEN IN POLITICS

Theme Coordinator: Buck McWilliams

Contributors: Sr. Jeanne Gallo, Margot Gilfeather, Amy Hasbrouck, Anne Perkins, Phyllis Rodin, Joan Wilce

Editorial: Amy Hasbrouck (student intern), Libby Hubbard (Poetry), Karen Parmenter, Kippy Phelps, Phyllis Rodin, Denise Yanni, Maria Yougokopoulou, Joan Wilce

Production: Yvonne Arango, Leslie Chaput, Nina Eliasoph, Doreen Fleming, Lisa G., Alice Klingener, Linda, Karen Parmenter, Kippy Phelps, Phyllis Rodin, Linda Shepley, Susannah, Janice Vassar, Joan Wilce

Photography: Sr. Jeanne Gallo

Graphics: Nina Eliasoph, C. Jennings, Linda Shepley,

Advertising: Buck McWilliams, Joan Wilce

Distribution: Judy Hait, Diane Jensen, Buck McWilliams, Kippy Phelps, Linda Shepley, Sue Tyler, Maria Y., Joan Wilce (coordinator)

### LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 1, 1983: "Spirituality"

Copy deadline: November 3, 1983

Followed by: Visions

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Valley Women's Voice is a news journal created from the words and images of women. Our goal is to provide a forum for diverse voices providing a piece is not racist, sexist, or homophobic. We welcome your opinion and ideas. The women's movement is founded upon the spirit of individual women who have the courage to voice their search. The VWV exists to communicate and strengthen that bond by making it visible through our pages. We as the Valley Women's Voice do not take an editorial stand on any issue. Our writers and advertisers speak for themselves.

**SUBMISSIONS:** The VWV depends on all valley women's voices. Everyone is encouraged to submit articles, letters, poetry, newsbriefs, graphics and photos. All copy must be typed, double-spaced; not to exceed 5 pages for articles, 3 pages for letters. Please include: title, by-line or pseudonym, your name, address and phone number (for contacting you about editorial revisions), and a SASE if you would like your original returned.

If you are looking for an idea or are unsure of how your particular interests may add to the news journal, call us to discuss the possibilities. Although we cannot afford to pay, we send a complimentary copy of the issue in which your article appears.

Unless previously copyrighted, all material published in the VWV may be reprinted only with prior written permission from the Collective.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscription rates for the VWV begin at \$8. Please see the subscription form in this issue.

**ADVERTISING:** For camera-ready ads, the cost is \$8/column inch. For ads which require typesetting & layout, the cost is \$9/column inch. Our graphic artists can design your ad. If a "stat" is necessary, there is an extra charge of \$5. Classifieds are 25¢/word. Advertising deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please write or call and we will send you our Ad Rate Sheet.

**PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:** For promotional photos, we must charge \$5 to cover the cost of making half-tone "stats" for printing. An additional \$1 is charged for photos appearing, at your request, on the Calendar Page.

VALLEY WOMEN'S VOICE  
PO BOX 392, N'ton, MA 01061

**STOP FORCED STERILIZATION**  
**ALTO A ESTERILIZACION FORZADA**



Hi! Editors,

Tonight I picked up a copy of VWV and enjoyed it very much. Please relay a message to B.Lee in regard to her article "When Women Turn Against Women". I have been on both sides of this situation, mostly through alcohol. I have been through much pain and have inflicted much pain, emotional and physical...Please, thank her for this article. We need to know more and share more. It hit home.

Name withheld.

Dear Joan Wilce & Amy Hasbrouck;

It was not too long ago that labels such as "moron", "idiot", "feeble-minded" and "moral defective" were used to describe individuals considered less able to meet the demands of a rapidly changing society. This emphasis on social inadequacy only provided a detour to a better understanding of what these people were as individuals. As a result, institutions flourished and people were treated as less than human. Only recently, by virtue of a vocal plurality, legislative mandates, and litigious activity (but no overwhelming societal commitment) have services to the disabled improved. The cause is clearly defined by a society that is reluctant to allow individuals their proper opportunity to fully realize their human value and continues to define people in terms of a group context (Secretary Watt's reference to a crippled committee member is a prime example). This process only fosters the belief that certain people are limited and inferior when in fact, many times, no limitation or inferiority exist. We commend you highly on the recent issue of Valley Women's Voice dedicated to the plight of women when sexual discrimination is compounded with a disability. The myth that only a select group has proprietary right to career or personal opportunities must be dispelled. Reports such as yours will hopefully awaken people's sensitivities to these issues and assist in the process.

Stan Scarpati  
Patricia Gillespie-Silver  
Human Services and Applied Behavioral Sciences Division,  
School of Education,  
University of Massachusetts

J.W. and A.H. reply:

Thank you for the kind notice. Credit for any issue, however, extends well beyond the theme coordinators, so we happily pass it around to all contributors and VWV staff.

Dear VWV,

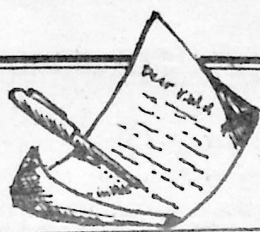
Thank you for sending me a free subscription of your paper.

I did happen to see "The Voice of Gina Sindoni" published in your paper and it pleased me very much. I was touched.

I was found competent, so my trial will begin. I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,  
Gena Spero

[Editors' note: Gena Spero is the first woman, so far as we know, who has asked for the paper that we offer free to women behind bars. We are glad to be remembered. Women who wish to support her with their letters can write: G. Spero, Box 50, Halthorne, MA 01937.]



# Letters

Dear Friends,

This month brought in five more letters, making us a good group of 28 women with lots of good reason to talk to each other. I wonder how many readers of the VWV are still asking themselves if they dare write. (From the sound of things, I wonder how long there will be a VWV P.O. Box to write to. The last message I heard on the VWV said there wouldn't be a November issue, and the letter I read said there wouldn't even be a paper, maybe...but recent news is more hopeful, so I am sending this in.)

The five new women to write added much to what has been said. Here are selected quotes:

"It was good to read about women coming from both sides, Lesbian to Heterosexual and Heterosexual to Lesbian. It's good to realize that there is more to love than the kind of genitals one wears."

"I have been following your ad and the response in the VWV since it first appeared last summer. I am especially interested in participating in a support/discussion group of women who are bisexual questioning or in process of making the decision to be a lesbian or not, or who have defined themselves as lesbian in the past, but now consider themselves bisexual. I fit somewhat into all of those categories."

"All of my close friends are women, both lesbian and straight. I find myself less attracted to men (including my husband) and more to women as time goes on...I feel very isolated with these feelings, as I know many other women do."

"...I put off writing for months. But I have decided that this is something I owe myself...My bisexuality has been both a joy and a problem. I love the freedom I feel in choice. I feel lonely sometimes, because I have felt that I have no one to talk to about it—no one who really understands. A number of my close friends know and are supportive and accepting, but for many (of them) it is out of their realm of experience. I would love it if a group could be established for talk, laughter, sharing, support, etc."

"Fortune truly smiled on me the day I picked up the Sept. issue of the VWV and read your letter. I could identify with many of the women you quoted... The idea of experimenting with another woman's feelings, the fears and conflicts of exploring my own sexuality almost kept me from discovering a very important and wonderful part of me."

The last quoted writer signed in closing, "Yours in strength and joy" but left me with no way to connect with her, as have a number of previous writers. Any new or previous correspondent who wishes to participate in real dialogue must furnish me (Iso, c/o P.O. Box 392, Northampton, MA 01061) with phone number or address (and directions for using them if there is a safety factor for you) as soon as possible.

Iso

Dear VWV,

I am writing to take issue with the letter from Iso in the October issue. Whoever wrote this obviously thinks she is a lesbian, but I say she could never be a lesbian even if she took lessons from Adrienne Rich herself. People like this Iso are giving the lesbian movement a bad name. In my opinion, she is simply addled and somebody ought to tell her husband to

rope her in before she picks up a disease. If Iso has enough free time to conduct half-assed surveys like this, I suggest she spend it in more productive activities like working with battered lesbians so she'll know how hard a real lesbian's life is.

Sincerely,  
Deborah L. Stein

Dear Wimmin,

Amy Hasbrouck's powerful article "Disabled Wimmin and Feminism" in the Sept. issue got me thinking about how ableism and other "isms" prevent many Lesbians from choosing radical and/or self-expressive styles of clothing, and inspired me to write this:

### CLOTHING AND THE ISMS

Even here in classist, capitalist Amerika, social progress should have enlightened people not to judge other people by their clothes. But in the final analysis we do have to judge people by their clothes. After all, clothes express personality, and even if you're a hireling of the bourgeoisie, it's better to dress in cut-offs and a tie-dyed T shirt if those express the essence of your soul, rather than to sheath yourself in oppressive garments that command respect from the middle class masses but amount to a personal sell-out.

As radical Lesbians, many of us have learned to dress in ways that flaunt the middle Amerika tradition of clean-cut "good girl next door" looks. No eye-shadow, nylon stockings, high-heeled, bra-and-girdle drek for us. We dress for comfort and for sisterhood. It's just too bad that too many people who "don't belong"—because of age, race, disability, or class—don't feel free to dress in radical ways.

Unfortunately, our distinctive styles of dress not only fuel classist, homophobic bigoted rage, but also divide us along ageist and ableist lines. Think for a minute—how many 70-year-old Lesbians do you know who wear faded jeans and an army shirt? How would you feel if you saw a woman old enough to be your grandmother dressed that way? Would you think of inviting her to a wimmin's dance? Make a pass at her?

And how would you feel about the sight of a physically challenged woman—yes, even a woman in a wheelchair-wearing stomping boots? Would you secretly snicker, or would you regard her as taking a bold step of self-empowerment?

And what about the woman from Chinatown whose parents would disown her if she got a crewcut? The list goes on and on. The fact that all these people do not feel free to dress as they please—and thus cannot publicly identify themselves as Lesbians—is a matter of grave social consequence.

Fat oppression is a closely related issue. I have one friend who hates to wear dresses because she considers them to be symbols of heterosexism, but she can't find a pair of jeans large enough to fit her. Ableist Amerika thus forces "different" people into stereotyped molds—they are unable to present themselves in certain ways, and so are denied a basic dignity. Anyway, who would ever think of a 350 pound woman as an individual, let alone as a Lesbian or a radical?

An integral part of self-identity is self-image, which is reflected in the image one presents to the world. Not until all Lesbians reclaim their right to self-identity will any Lesbian be truly free.

Luna Dykesister



# Newsbriefs

## CHISHOLM ON WOMANPOWER

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM, speaking to an audience of 300 at Greenfield High School, October 3rd, blamed the apathy of the American people for allowing the Reagan administration to shift billions of dollars from social programs to defense. "Everybody is suffering from something called Reaganomics—retired Americans uncertain of their future income, students unable to get guaranteed college loans, working women floundering for childcare facilities, farmers losing their lifework through bankruptcy." She pointed out that "women and blacks could become a political MX...capable, if we choose to do so in 1984, of blasting the conservative minority back to where they belong, to the fringes of our political system." But former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm did not blame Reagan. "We've all gone to sleep. We are a bunch of Rip Van Winkles, wringing our hands and wondering what's going to happen in the future."

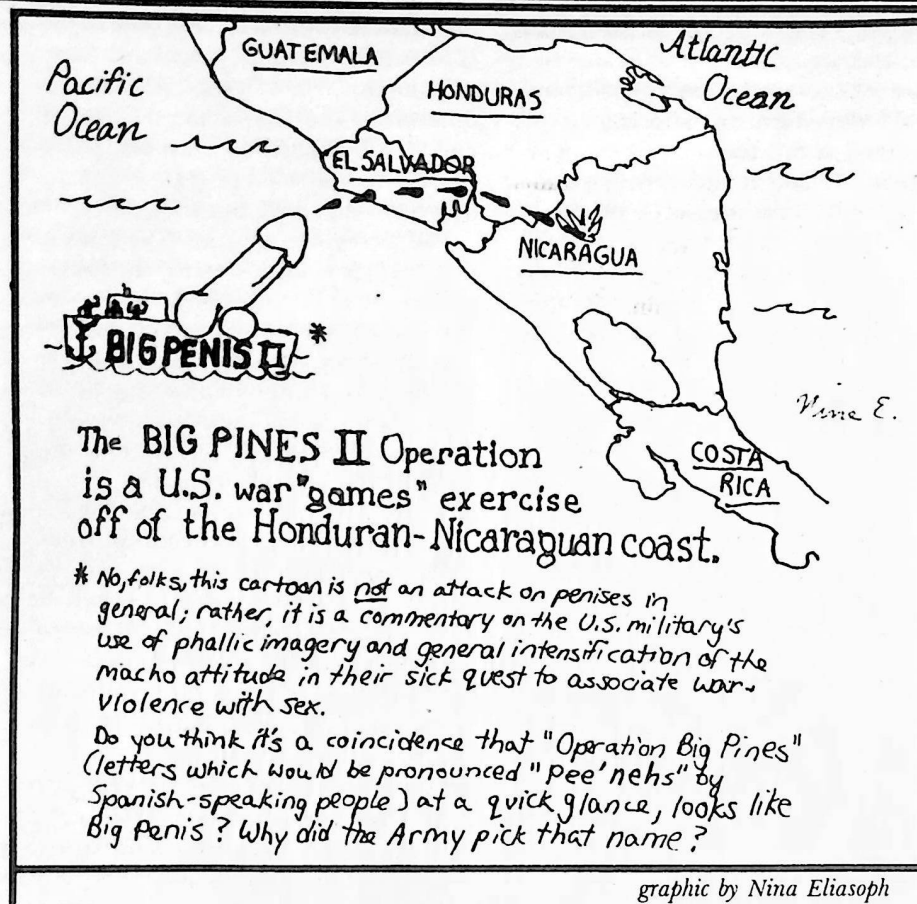
Calling for women to become more active politically, Professor Chisholm said: "We're not going to have the necessary changes until women are in positions of administering power."

After her talk, she said the possibility of a woman running for president is slim because of "the money problem... We're not part of the 'Old Boy' network." However, she added, the Democratic presidential aspirants who wouldn't mind a woman as running mate "know the women's vote is important." She said she would not run because she was 59 years old. Anyway, she is enjoying her position on the staff of Mount Holyoke College where her political experience can be shared with younger women who have longer futures in which to carry on the cause. (The Morning Union, Oct. 4, '83) □

## WASTE LAW INITIATIVE

Citizens deserve the chance to vote on the siting of hazardous waste facilities in their town, say members of B.E.S.T., the Benchmark for Environmentally Safe Treatment.

Dr. Elizabeth Smola, a spokesperson for BEST said, "This law would give the right to any town or community to vote for or against a hazardous waste facility at the end of the present siting process."



cess."

BEST is the sponsor of a proposed amendment to the General Laws of Massachusetts. The organization, based in Central Mass., is collecting signatures of registered voters on petition forms that will be circulated around the state until November 22.

A summary states, "The proposed law would require local voter approval before a hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facility could be constructed, maintained or operated in any city or town." Smola said the proposed law will give citizens the opportunity to make a rational decision after looking at who the developers are and what they propose to build.

Citizens who wish to sign or circulate petitions are needed and can contact BEST through P.O. Box 152 in Brimfield, Mass. More than 60,000 signatures are required. (Submitted by D. LaBonte and G. Irvine) □

## WOMEN INDICT ELECTRIC BOAT

Women of faith from throughout New England gathered in Groton, CT, home of Electric Boat and the Trident Nuclear Submarine, Sun., Oct. 2 to demonstrate their faith for a peaceful future.

Representing various religions and including many Catholic orders, the women came to participate in a Peace Picnic and liturgy and to walk with banners and song to the gates of the Electric Boat facility, where they circled and prayed.

Monday, Oct. 3, three women from Western Mass joined five others at Quonset Point, RI, where another Electric Boat facility manufactures missile tubes for the Trident. Frances Crowe of Northampton, Judith Scheckel of Greenfield, and Victoria Safford of Williamsburg joined Judith Beaumont OSB, Sue Ann Shea SND, Joan Baillas, all of Hartford, and Ann Welch OSM and Kate Champa of Rhode Island in a nonviolent act of civil disobedience.

"We came to Electric Boat to serve an indictment against the plant and against the government of the United States, for this violation of international law in the production of this deadly first strike weapon," said, Sister Sue Ann Shea of Hartford. The women glued 5 formal indictments to 30' missile tubes in the yard, and stenciled "Thou shalt not kill" on 12 tubes. They were arrested as they prayed, after the action which was to serve the indictment to Electric Boat officials and the

local police.

They were arraigned yesterday in Washington County Court, where they entered creative pleas for the future of the planet, for the world's children, and for peace. "We were called to do what we did here today," said the women afterwards. "It was an act of divine obedience." The women will appear in the District Court in North Kingston, RI, on Oct. 18 for their trial. (News Release, Western Mass AFSC, 10/4/83) □

## CLUW SUPPORTS ORGANIZERS

Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) voted unanimously in September to support the workers' organizing efforts at Western Mass. Bus Lines. Western Mass Bus Lines employees and members of the organizing committee Nicole Sumner, Amy Talkington, and Diane Souza attended the meeting and discussed their organizing efforts and their employer's anti-union campaign.

In an effort to discourage workers from organizing, the employer has been using typical union-busting tactics, such as suspending four of the organizing committee members. The Commercial Workers Union is assisting workers in their organizing efforts and has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board alleging that the employer has illegally intimidated, coerced and interrogated workers as a result of their union activity.

CLUW members have made a commitment to assist the bus workers in variety of ways, including community outreach and leafletting. For info call Myra Hindus, Everywoman's Center, 545-0883. (CLUW Press Release, 10/12/83) □

## ABORTION PASSES IN SPAIN

A limited law for legalized abortion finally passed the legislature in Spain. This may have far reaching effects on male-dominated legislatures throughout the Spanish-speaking world. "It is like a miracle," said a mother of six who has felt the bite of inflation and the gnawing guilt of bringing another being into the world that she knows she will not be able to feed, house, clothe, or educate. "It isn't all we want, but it is a beginning."

Spanish women have been under the domination of the Catholic bias that preferred women to perform their own abortions than that they be able to have properly administered medical care.

(New York Times, 10/9/83) □

## Coping With

# INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

by Anne Perkins

One of the new concerns of the construction industry is "indoor air pollution". The concern has arisen because the new emphasis on energy-efficient building has led us to build airtight (or almost) buildings. We insulate, caulk, weather-strip, and use tight air/vapor barriers—all to seal in the warmth and seal out the cold. In so doing, however, we have created spaces where people are essentially living and working inside a big balloon.

Such an environment can cause several problems. Odors from food preparation and from bodies can be intensified; relative humidity can be raised by cooking and bathing to uncomfortably stuffy levels; mold can grow on walls.

Most seriously, however, people can unknowingly breathe in a number of

harmful pollutants that exist in all buildings. Radon is in the water, in all masonry, and in sheetrock. Particle board, plywood, insulation, carpets, drapes, paneling, wallpaper, plastic appliances, shampoo, toothpaste, disinfectant, tobacco, and wood smoke contain formaldehyde. Tobacco smoke also emits benzopyrene, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide, this last also contained in wood smoke.

Gas appliances emit carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and hydrogen cyanide. The various cleansers used to keep house and body clean produce such pollutants as benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chlorine fumes, lye, ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium lauryl sulfate, aluminum chloride, hydrocarbons, vinyl acetate polymer, and trichloroethylene. [Source: *Installing Air-to-Air Heat Exchanges*, by Richard Kang and Richard D. McGinley, Jr., Portland Energy Group,

1983.] I am not qualified to say which of these chemicals are particularly harmful and am trusting those who put such lists together who say that in fact they are harmful.

If you live in a drafty old house, or even one built before 1970, you needn't be too concerned about indoor air pollution. Only if your home or work space was built in the last few years by an energy conscious builder, do you have real cause for concern. And if you are building a new house, you should definitely become knowledgeable about the solution.

The solution is to get fresh air moving through your building—pushing polluted stale air out. Opening doors and windows, as well as running bathroom and kitchen fans (to a certain extent), will accomplish that—but at the same time you are "heating all outdoors." The practical solution, then, is a device called an air-to-air heat

exchanger.

The exchanger uses warm stale air to preheat cold fresh air by having them bypass each other through a series of tiny fins. This is similar to using cold air rushing past fins to cool hot water in a car radiator. The exchangers move the air with small fans that are in continuous use during the heating season. Wall units resembling air-conditioners can be used, or one can install a central unit that is ducted to different rooms. Prices, excluding installation, start at about \$500 for wall units and about \$700 for central units with all the fittings.

I recommend using a central unit where feasible, and certainly in new construction. I will be installing my first units this year in two superinsulated houses I designed and am building with the Rural Housing Improvement Self-Help Program.

Anne Perkins is available for design consultation at (617) 544-6385. □



# NICARAGUA . . . .

by Jeanne Gallo, Sister of Notre Dame

War is a horrible thing. And at this moment, the United States Government is waging war against the Nicaraguan people. The effects of U.S. aggression on this small Central American country of two and a half million people are tremendous.

For close to half a century, Nicaragua was kept in a state of extreme underdevelopment by the hereditary dictatorship of the Somoza family, which was installed, armed, and protected by the United States. The Somoza dynasty came to embody the essence of imperial power, scheming, corrupting, buying, selling, terrorizing, plundering.

By the time of the most recent Somoza, Anastasio Somoza Debayle, the family controlled a large part of the Nicaraguan economy: nearly 30% of the arable land, the national airline, the only shipping company, and extensive interests in banking, hotels, real estate, fishing, construction, radio, television, and newspapers.

During the last years of the regime, the corruption rampant throughout the Somoza administration pushed the Nicaraguan people to the limit. As opposition developed and the influence of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) grew, Somoza became even more repressive. His National Guard unleashed a reign of terror aimed particularly at the peasant population, who at the time were the FSLN's base of support. Whole areas were burned out, driving thousands of peasants off their land in order to create

"free fire" zones in which the FSLN guerrillas would be unable to survive. There is no exact data as to how many people were tortured, imprisoned, or murdered at this time.

Then it ended. It ended with a massive and total insurrection by the Nicaraguan people which began in late May and culminated on July 19, 1979 when the FSLN marched triumphantly into Managua and installed a new government.

Today, as it struggles to heal its war wounds, to build a revolution, to rebuild a country destroyed not only by war but also by earthquake, and now also by blockade, provoked shortages, and economic destabilization, Nicaragua is forced to use precious resources for self-defence against a U.S.-backed "not-so-secret" covert war.

The feeling in Nicaragua today, as the country fights counterrevolutionaries ("Contras") on both northern and southern borders, as its coasts are lined by U.S. warships loaded with planes, bombs, tanks, and troops, is one of fear, of waiting, of wondering *when*, not if, the U.S. bombs will be unleashed, blasting them "back to the stone age."

But, as one religious worker told me this past month in Managua, "It doesn't make any difference how many bombs or how many people are killed. This struggle of the poor will keep on going. It cannot be stopped. That is how thousands of Nicaraguans see it. Their mission is to plant the seed and for others to continue."

When I asked another person if the fact that Nicaragua enjoys such interna-

tional solidarity and has its place in the U.N. Security Council would make any difference, she answered, "It makes no difference. The U.S. is so powerful. It makes NO difference. You can make any claims you want to. If they want to hear you, they will. But they don't."

She went on to explain. "The truth is that the U.S. plans to destroy the revolution here in the manner it sees fit—at the loss of thousands of lives. And all the time keeping secret from the U.S. people what this revolution is doing—that it isn't Communist. It is a revolution that the people, in spite of the aggressions, have benefitted from. It is a revolution that could be a model for all the poor and oppressed in Latin America. If we are a success, and we would be if the U.S. would stay out, then all the poor in Latin America would claim that they too want benefits." She pleaded with me, "Get your people out. Do everything you can. Because that's the only way."

...she pleaded with me, "Get your people out. Do everything you can. Because that's the only way."

The attitude in Washington today is no different than in 1927, when the then Under-Secretary of State Robert Olds said: "...We do control the destinies of Central America, and we do so for the simple reason that the national interest absolutely dictates such a course. Until now Central America has always understood that governments which we recognize and support stay in pow-

er, while those we do not recognize and support fall."

But today is NOT 1927. It is 1983 and the world has changed. Just as the undignified exodus of Marines from the rooftop of the American Embassy in Saigon, while crowds of Vietnamese looted the buildings below, signified the end of what *TIME* MAGAZINE had called, in the early 40's, "The American Century", the popular victory in Nicaragua was a sign that the old order was coming to an end in Central America also. Not only did mounting social upheaval threaten the interests of the region's economic elite, but even more important, it challenged the continued dominance of the United States in Central America. The victory of the Nicaraguan people and the subsequent coming to power of the FSLN was seen as a failure by U.S. policy makers.

Seeing the guerrilla wars intensifying in Guatemala and El Salvador, the U.S. State Department reported in 1981 that Central America was the area of the world presenting "the main challenge to U.S. interests." As R. Tucker wrote in *FOREIGN AFFAIRS* (1980): "The remedy for a foreign policy that has come close to insolvency—because the means to secure vital interests are inadequate—is plainly to restore the necessary means. In the two most critical areas of concern [the Middle East and Central America] to the United States, the necessary means...are military."

Tucker states: "In Central America our pride is engaged...If we do not apply a policy of resurgent America to

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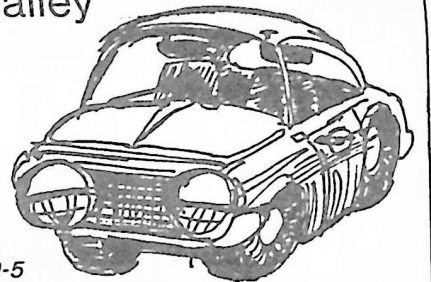
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# What Are WE Doing There?

prevent the coming to power of radical regimes in Central America, we have even less reason to do so in other areas where conventional security interests are not apparent... Radical movements or radical regimes must be defeated... Right wing governments will have to be given steady outside support, even, if necessary, by sending in American forces.

Tucker's principles and policies fit very well in the worldview of Ronald Reagan and those who have come to power with him. If one looks back over the last ten years, especially the Carter years, it becomes apparent why a Ronald Reagan was needed to justify the massive build-up in arms we are witnessing at present, as well as the foreign policy now being implemented in Central America. A resurgent America has got to be an interventionist America—if the U.S. 'is to be taken seriously as a power to be reckoned with.'

The worldview of the Reagan Administration is clearly stated in the opening paragraphs of the Santa Fe report published by the Council for Inter-American Security in 1980: "Nations exist only in relation to each other. Foreign policy is the instrument by which peoples seek to assure their survival in a hostile world. War, not peace, is the norm in international affairs." [emphasis added.]

With such a perception, it is evident why the present U.S. government deliberately acts to destabilize and eventually eliminate the present government of Nicaragua.

Events over the last two years show that the U.S. does see itself at war with the Nicaraguan people and is extending its options for battle. Fighting the "Marxist threat" and securing our "national interests" in Central America certainly make it easier to justify the rearming of America now taking place.

In response to the U.S.-backed "no-longer-secret" war, the Nicaraguan people, whose desire for peace is so

profound, are forced to arm themselves, not because they are in an arms race, but because they want to survive. Everyone is basically in the army. Enormous numbers of people are in the militia, do guard duty in their workplace, go to reserve battalions and to different parts of the country. If these people are so willing to rise up and throw the Sandinistas out, as the U.S.



photo by Jeanne Gallo SND  
Survivors of Contra attacks Teotecacinte (northern border). June 1983.

government claims, why aren't they doing it? They have the wherewithal. Instead, they go to the border, not to join the U.S.-backed "contras", but to fight against them in defense of their revolution.

That revolution has eliminated polio; educated a once largely illiterate population to the third grade level of literacy; and given land to peasants who never had land before. It supports a pluralistic economy; it has guaranteed and is working towards elections in 1985. What do the U.S.-backed "contras" offer the Nicaraguan people? Freedom? Meaning what? Freedom to

starve? Freedom to be sick? Freedom to be illiterate? Freedom to be poor? They have had that kind of freedom already. They rejected it in 1979 and they reject it now.

Yes, war is horrible. And the human cost of war is horrible. When I asked Margaret Randall, writer-poet, to describe that cost, she said: "I don't know whether the way to talk about that is to tell about the 8-year old kid I visited in a hospital in Matagalpa who had just lost his leg at Rancho Grande. His father was standing by his bed and he had been discharged from the hospital that day. There was nothing else they could do for him. And his father just refused to take him home. He kept saying over and over again, 'I want his leg back. I want his leg back. And I'm not going to leave without the leg.' It was clear to us that the father was in a state of shock. He had lost his wife and his son's leg in that attack on Rancho Grande."

She continued, "One of the things I remember being struck with when I first came to Nicaragua in 1979 was the fact that none of the kids looked like kids. None of the young people looked like young people. Their faces were absolutely marked by a premature adulthood that came from a war and that nothing can produce... I remember thinking that one of the most indelible, damaging and permanent aggressions committed against the Nicaraguan people by Somoza was preventing kids from actually living their childhood. In the years since then... one of the gradual changes has been the restoration of youthful faces to the youth of this country."

"...One of the things I'm extremely aware of today and absolutely angry about is precisely the fact that—with the U.S., the CIA, the Pentagon, Honduras, and all the other mercenaries, aside from the Somocistas, involved in this undeclared but extremely present war against Nicaragua—the kids are becoming adults again. You see the faces of these kids going off to war; they're

not young faces anymore. After a brief period of the return of their youth, the children of Nicaragua are having to become adults again before their time.

"We could speak about cannon-fodder these people represent, most of them not even knowing what it's about. We could speak of economic destabilization, of provocation of shortages. We could speak of a great number of things," Margaret said. But, "I think one of the most eloquent statements of what the enemy is doing here is just the expression of the kid's faces."

Returning to the U.S. after five-and-a-half weeks in Nicaragua, during which I traveled to the border, I am convinced that the main battle front of this war is in Washington, D.C. Regardless of how imperfect the Nicaraguan revolution is after just four short years, there is no justification for the war the U.S. is currently waging against that country.

"You see the faces of these kids going off to war; they're not young faces anymore."

As Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaragua's Minister of Foreign Relations, said recently: "We can not rule anything out as being within the range of the U.S. to do. Obviously, they would like to use others to do their work. If they think that they can withstand the political consequences of direct intervention, they will go that route." He concluded, "If the U.S. chooses to use its power, whatever may remain of its national honor will be drowned in our blood."

We must not allow that to happen. We must organize everywhere so that the political climate does not exist for direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. We must organize to stop U.S. sponsored violence in Central America. We must act NOW and we must act TOGETHER to put an end to the U.S.'s "undeclared" war in Nicaragua. We must. We can. □



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## NOVEMBER WIND

*November Wind  
If I'm a child of yours  
Blow me in the right direction  
Should I chase the fallen leaves  
Which offer no protection?*

*I can walk a straight line  
'though my heart tells me to stray  
Is this divine inspiration  
Or did I drink too much coffee today?*

*These feet are itching to move  
This mind is trapped behind bars  
Of others' expectations  
These hands want to touch the stars*

*I am out, walking alone  
Down the street, past the rain  
I don't need an answer  
Just give me something  
to dull the pain*

Margot Gilfeather

## VWV STILL IN THE VALLEY

by Joan Wilce

Calls for help brought enough new women volunteers to the Valley Women's Voice in early October to allow the Collective to publish a limited issue for November and plan a full sized paper for December.

The continuation of this feminist news journal into a sixth year, however, will depend upon the sustained enthusiasm and participation of new members, and continued recruitment of writers, editors, artists, advertising representatives, typesetters, distributors, production staff, office and business managers. Reorganization of the Collective and relocation of the office are critical.

Until further notice, the Collective will continue to meet on the first and last Tuesday evening of every month. The next such meeting is Nov. 1. Time and location will be announced in the Collegian and by radio. Bring us your ideas, your skills; learn from others, meet wonderful women. Women of any age, student or non-student, are welcome. All you need to bring is an interest in helping an important alternative paper remain in the Valley, continue its necessary function, and improve its service.

The Valley Women's Voice is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) at UMass, as of this writing without long-term office space, only temporary shelter wherever we can find it. For several years the VWV has rented space from

the Hampshire Community Action Commission in Northampton. Before that it was housed at the Everywoman's Center on the UMass Campus. The VWV is leaving its present location because of H. C. A. C.'s need for more space. The Collective is grateful for the help that organization has given during our association.

The report that the VWV went to Northampton for office space in the first place because EWC needed its space back was, we have found, in error. We need an archivist and historian to record the true history of the VWV, the first issue of which appeared in February, 1979. It was born of a group of female Collegian staff members whose efforts to adequately cover women's news was frustrated to the point that they occupied that paper's offices in November, 1978.

Women's determination and spirit produced the VWV. Nothing less will keep it vital. The women who join the VWV should do so with a sense of stewardship and a willingness to contribute to the paper's direction and growth—and for the fun of it! Do not be discouraged during this transition period if you have offered help and did not hear from us. We still need you, and only the immediate pressures of the November issue kept us from getting back to you. Keep trying us. Write: VWV, Box 392, Northampton, MA 01061. Call: 549-7532 and leave a message for Joan, or call Everywoman's Center (545-0883) for information or to leave a message. □

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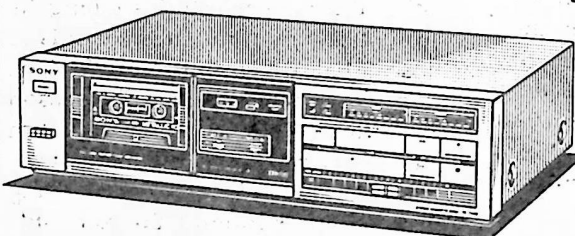
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## Politics

continued from page 1

access to the benefits of education and minority women would not be discriminated against because they are female and members of a minority. Day by day, step by step, NOW is bringing the moment closer when women will no longer pay the multi-billion-dollar cost of sex discrimination. The time is coming when no one will impose limited horizons on an American child because she is female.

Rosalie Trowbridge, N.E. Regional Director of NOW, reporting recently on the annual NOW convention held in Washington, DC, Oct. 1-2, said that women have become the deciding factor in the 1984 presidential election. She added that, for the first time, NOW intends to back a presidential candidate.

Significantly, five Democratic hopefuls started in July to solicit votes at the National Women's Caucus. They promised to use the full powers of the presidency to assure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. One thousand feminists were reassured of these

candidates positions on abortion, economic equity, civil rights and other matters which feminists espouse. No promises, however, were made about women appointees to the Cabinet or White House staff though all candidates said women would be key aides.

The first week of October seven candidates showed up at the NOW annual convention to bid for support of the 250,000 member group. Six of the men seeking the Democratic Party nomination courted the women's vote by pledging to consider a woman as a vice-presidential running mate. Vice President Bush, remarking on their presentations, felt that answering to women was—a little degrading—like trooping before the women down the vice-presidential trail, almost in an embarrassing fashion. Judith Goldsmith said Bush's remarks were further evidence that the Reagan administration does not take women seriously. She said, "He didn't suggest it was degrading to speak before historically male-dominated labor unions, veteran organizations, chambers of commerce, the NAACP, etc.. It was degrading only because the candidates were appearing before women."

The NOW convention passed a resolution that if Ronald Reagan is the Republican Party candidate in 1984, it would be the primary political goal of NOW to defeat him. With administration cuts in social services, the escalation of military spending and the worsening of new job opportunities, women face the most bitter consequences of job displacement and unemployment which directly contributes to the feminization of poverty.

In a keynote address to the NOW Convention, Coretta Scott King told cheering NOW members, "Women of conscience should oppose racism and concerned minorities should oppose sexism at every turn. Discrimination is our enemy and we cannot tolerate it in any form."

NOW plans to concentrate with the League of Women Voters on voter registration and on putting together a two million dollar campaign chest to recruit and support the election of "progressive" female candidates in state legislative, congressional and presidential races. The plan is to put its 800 chapters with a quarter of a million hardened members to work identifying, recruiting and supporting the elec-

tion of feminists. Massachusetts has 17 NOW chapters with 9,000 members.

The strategy which led to this focus was worked out in the informal group called "The Woman's Round Table" which consists of presidents or executive directors of more than fifty women's organizations whose slogan is "IT'S A MAN'S WORLD UNLESS WOMEN VOTE." Among those involved are the National Women's Political Caucus, The United Methodist Women's Division, The National Council of Negro Women, the Mexican-American Women's National Assn., 9 to 5, the National Assn. of Working Women, the Junior League, the League of Women Voters, the American Assn. of University Women, the Voter Education Project, Operation Big Vote, the Children's Foundation, the YWCA, the National Education Assn., the Women's Equity Action League.

Former deputy campaign manager for Senator Edward M. Kennedy's 1980 Democratic Party presidential nomination, Joanne Massey Howes has been hired as director of the Women's Vote Project. □

# Announcements ...

**LESBIAN HEALTH WORKSHOP**, Thurs. Nov. 3. Covers: 1) basic lesbian health, including sexually transmitted diseases, breast self exams, vaginal health, health facts and myths 2) "coming out" to your health care provider—advantages/disadvantages 3) recommendations re: pelvic exams and pap smears 4) questions and concerns of those attending. Info: Debbie Edelman, 549-2671, ext. 181, or EWC, 545-0883.

**THE HERSTORY OF THE N.Y. CITY** Lesbian community from 1900 to 1970 is being researched. Lesbians who were there before 1970 and are willing to correspond or be interviewed, and persons with lesbian/gay documents and memorabilia—photos, news clippings, home movies, diaries, personal letters or just stories to tell—that they are willing to share, write Joan Nestle, 215 W. 92 St., New York, NY 10025, or call (212) 874-7232. Confidentiality assured.

**VOLUNTEERS OR INTERNS** to work with adolescent women ages 13-21, as case advocates, GED tutors, theatre crew, and assistants for annual Christmas party and bowl-a-thon. Training, on-going support and supervision provided. Info: SOJOURN, 586-6807.

**"UNLEARNING RACISM"**, a 7 week course for women on Tuesday evenings beginning Nov. 8. Sliding scale. Led by Dr. Joan Lester, Equity Institute, Amherst, MA. Call 256-6902.

**THE THIRD WORLD THEATER OF UMASS** continues its eighth season of plays with and original production of "Do Lord Remember Me," a musical integrating traditional Negro spirituals with authentic oral histories, telling the story of slavery through the words of those who survived it. Nov. 3, 4, 5. Hampden Theater, 8 pm. The season closes with "A.B.C.: American Born Chinese", Dec. 2, an exploration of the history, joys and sorrows of being Chinese in this country. Bowker Aud., 8 pm. Tickets: Fine Arts Center Box Office or at the door. Supervised child care available free by reservation. Call 545-0190, Mon.-Fri., 9-5, prior to performance.

**CAR SAFETY SEATS** for preschool children are accessible to parents at all income levels through the Lease on Life Program in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. Make automobile travel safe for all children. Call Janet Stetson, 538-8419, or Nancy Toso, 549-1167.

**FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON AGEISM AND OLDER WOMEN.** Wanted: articles, fiction, cartoons, drawings, photos, interviews, personal experience, feminist theory. Goal: anthology on ageism from a feminist perspective for use in Women's Studies and Gerontology, for political organizing, and for consciousness-raising for all women. Submissions may be new or previously published. Deadline: March 15, 1984. Send with SASE to Feminist Perspectives on Ageism, c/o Polly Taylor, 904 Irving St., #358, San Francisco, CA 94122.

**"HOW TO STOP SEXUAL HARASSMENT"**, a one day workshop on Sat. Nov. 19, from 10-5pm. Led by Carole Johnson, Equity Institute. Sliding scale. Call 256-6902.

**4TH ANNUAL WOMEN AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE**; workshops at Holyoke Community College Nov. 5, preceded by an opening reception from 7:30-9 pm. Fri. Nov. 4 at the Hotel Northampton. Keynote speaker: Anne Wexler, Wexler, Reynolds, Harrison and Schule, Inc. Choice of two workshops out of 24, including Myths and Realities of Being a Boss, Creating Ad Campaigns, Marketing Small Businesses, Selecting an Attorney, Public Relations, Export and Import Issues, Business Loans, and Starting Your Own Consulting Business. Fee: \$40. Includes lunch. Telephone registration: 545-0587. Info: 545-0312.

**THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN ARTISTS ARCHIVE** is sponsoring a Poster and Logo Competition open to all artists. Award: \$500 plus publication. All media, any format, unlimited entries. Fee: \$5-10. Juror: Rosemary Anderson, artist and curator of the Archive. Deadline: Dec. 15, 1983. Info: send SASE to IWAA, PO Box 1033, Hadley, MA 01035.

**SUPPORT GROUP** forming for women from different backgrounds to share experiences and discuss issues important to them. Open to any woman over 18. Meets at Everywoman's Center, Wilder Hall, UMass, Tues. 7-9 pm. Last meeting Nov. 22. Info: 545-0883.

**THE PROGRESSIVE FILM SERIES**, presented by the Commuter Area Government, is showing: "Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery" and "If You Love This Planet," two controversial Canadian films labeled "propaganda" by the U.S. Justice Dept. and for a short time banned from distribution in the U.S.; "On The Beach," a best-picture-of-the-year treating nuclear war; "South Africa Belongs to Us," exploring the plight of black South African Women. All films FREE. 7:30, Campus Center, UMass. See Calendar for date and room number. Info: 545-2145. correction above line:

and room number. Info: 545-2145.

more Announcements page 8

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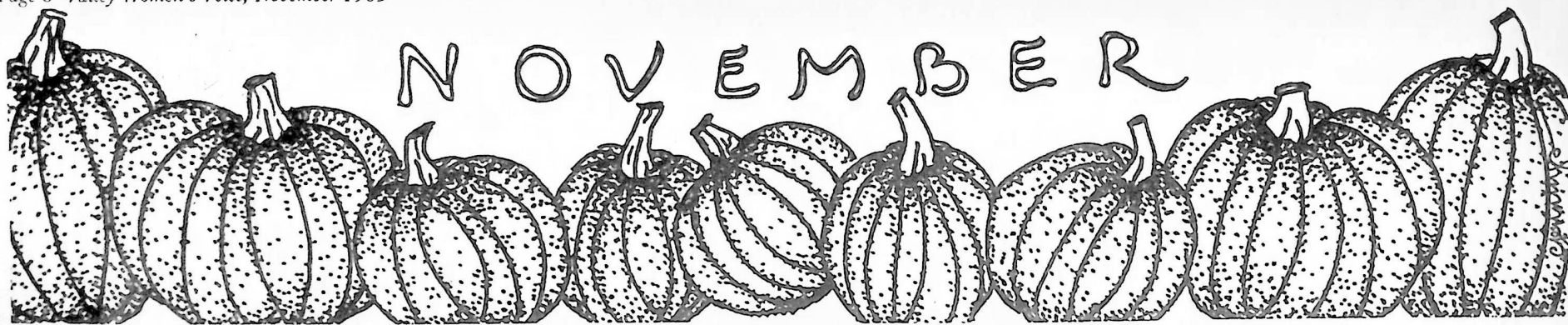
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#### TUESDAY NOV 1

- ★ VVW Nov. issue available. (See list of key distribution points and look for your copy there each month.)
- ★ VVW Collective mtg. 7:30 pm. Place to be announced. NEW MEMBERS WANTED. Info: 545-0883.

#### THURSDAY NOV 3

- ★ Third World Theater Series: "Do Lord Remember Me". Hampden Theater, 8 pm. (See announcements)
- ★ Progressive Film Series: "Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery" and "If You Love This Planet". Campus Center, Rm. 101, 7:30 pm. (See announcements)
- ★ Lesbian Health Care Workshop, 7 pm, Everywoman's Center. (See announcements)

#### FRIDAY NOV 4

- ★ Third World Theater (See Nov. 3).
- ★ Women & Business Conference, opening reception. (See announcements)

#### SATURDAY NOV 5

- ★ Third World Theater (See Nov. 3)
- ★ 4th Annual Women & Business Conference workshops. (See announcements)

#### SUNDAY NOV 6

- ★ Women Outdoors Day Hike to Mt. Norwotuck in the Holyoke Range. Meet at Atkins parking lot on Rte. 116 at 1:00 pm. For more information call Lyndell or Mary at 586-0711. New members welcome.

#### TUESDAY NOV 8

- ★ "Unlearning Racism", a 7-week course begins. (See announcements)

#### WEDNESDAY NOV 9

- ★ Progressive Film Series: "On the Beach", Rm. 174, Campus Center, 7:30 pm. (See announcements)
- ★ Women: Lives of Struggle and Hope, film series. "Wilmar 8", 7 pm, Girl's Club, Holyoke. (See announcements)

#### FRIDAY NOV 11

- ★ Buses leave for march in Wash., DC, for jobs, peace and justice domestically and protesting the US intervention in Central America. Buses are reserved by the L.A. and Caribbean Solidarity Committees and the American Friends Service Committee, leave Amherst and N'ton on Fri. Call 584-8975.

#### SATURDAY NOV 12

- ★ March in DC for jobs, peace and justice and protesting US intervention in Central America. Call 584-8975 for more info.
- ★ Production begins for Dec. issue of VVW, Student Union, UMass, 9 am-midnight. Production schedule: Starting 5 pm week days, 9 am week-ends: continuing daily till midnight. Open to all women. Stop by and be a part of it. See following dates.
- ★ VVW typesetting. Typesetters welcome anytime during production hours Nov. 12-22.
- ★ Meg Christian, Chris Williamson, etc. in concert, Orpheum, Boston.

#### WEDNESDAY NOV 16

- ★ VVW production: layout, headlines, announcement/calendar, copy.

#### THURSDAY NOV 17

- ★ VVW production: proof-reading, paste-up, continuing through Tues., Nov. 22. see Sat. Nov. 12 for hours and location.
- ★ Progressive Film Series: "The Word is Out", Rm. 168, Campus Center, 7:30 pm. (See announcements)

#### SATURDAY NOV 19

- ★ "How to Stop Sexual Harassment", one-day workshop, 10-5. (See announcements)
- ★ VVW production all day and evening. Help needed. Student Union, UMass. All women welcome.

#### SUNDAY NOV 20

- ★ Women Outdoors-Potluck, planning meeting and slide show. Everywoman's Center, UMass, 6:30 pm. Bring eating utensils. New members welcome.
- ★ VVW we're still here at production and need your help. All women welcome. Student Union, UMass, 9 am on.

#### MONDAY NOV 21

- ★ VVW production, we're down to the wire and need your help, drop by for a short time or a long time. We'll be here from 5 pm to whenever.

#### TUESDAY NOV 22

- ★ VVW production, last day to help. Stop by 5 pm on.

#### SATURDAY NOV 26

- ★ Progressive Film Series: "South Africa Belongs to Us", Rm 904, Campus Center, 7:30 pm. (See announcements)

#### THURSDAY DEC 1

- ★ VVW issue: "Women's Spirituality". Please do your part to insure a solid future for the VVW. Observe deadlines for articles, letters, announcements, calendar, & ads. ADVERTISE! SUBSCRIBE!

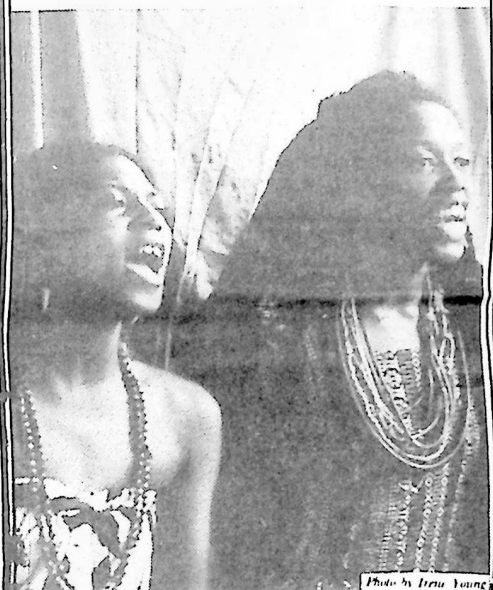
- ★ Progressive Film Series: "1984", Campus Center, Rm. 904, 8:30 pm. (See announcements)

#### FRIDAY DEC 2

- ★ Third World Theater: "A.B.C.: American Born Chinese", see announcements.

- ★ WOMEN OF THE CALABASH, presented by Crescendo Productions. 8 pm., Sage Hall, Smith Coll. (See display ad)

Crescendo Productions Presents:  
**WOMEN OF THE CALABASH**  
Fri Dec 2nd 8pm  
Sage Hall, Smith Coll



Tickets: \$6 general, \$8 contributing, \$4 under 16/over 60

Available at:  
Amherst: Everywoman's Center (UMass), Food For Thought, For the Record (FACES); Northampton: Country Comfort, Womonyre Books; Brattleboro: Maple Leaf Music; Greenfield: World Eye Books; Springfield: Main Music

Hall wheelchair accessible, bathrooms are not.  
ASL for hearing impaired.  
Childcare and other info. (413) 584-2637

## CLASSIFIEDS

**DR. JOAN LESTER** of Equity Institute in Amherst provides counseling to individuals (as well as group work) on issues of oppression: class background, money, ethnic/cultural heritage, issues of racism, heterosexism. Sliding fee scale. Call 256-6902.

**EMPLOYMENT WANTED:** Two experienced carpenter's helpers seek employment at reasonable rates in Hampshire, Franklin and Western Worcester counties. Call collect: Chris Doughty—(413) 773-3554 or Kate Neilson—(617) 544-7316.

**HARDWORKING, SELF-MOTIVATED WOMEN** who thrive on the challenges of putting a non-paying women's news journal together. Do not let a lack of experience or skills deter you; you can and will acquire them. Enthusiasm to learn, willingness to work and whatever time you can spare is all you need. Contact VVW, PO Box 392, Northampton, MA 01061 or call Everywoman's Center, Wilder Hall, UMass and leave a message. Join us during production week, Nov. 12-22. Participate, make a difference.

## Announcements

continued from page 6

**GLAD**, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of greater Danbury, an active social, educational and political group, meets Fri. at 7:30 pm. First Fri.: Social, Second: Discussion, Third: Movie, Fourth: Lecture. First Congregational Church, Deerhill Ave. and West St., Danbury, CT. Membership welcomed. Info: GLAD, 78 Kellogg St., Brookfield, CT 06804.

**WOMEN: LIVES OF STRUGGLE AND HOPE**, a film series sponsored by Womanshelter/Companeras and the Center for Reflective Action. Film series: Nov. 9, "Wilmar 8", explores issue of women's rights and economic justice. Follows eight women bank workers, through the struggles of a two-year strike as they develop into militant, feminist trade unionists. Nov. 22, "You Have Struck a Rock", historical look at the struggle of black South African women as they organized to overcome the oppression of race, class and sex in a racist, apartheid system. Dec. 6, "Operacion", the sterilization abuse of Hispanic women. Films free. Shown at 7 pm, the Girl's Club, 52 Bond St., Holyoke. Info: 536-1629 or 532-5541.

**AND THE THICK ONES ARE COMFORTERS: A LESBIAN MOTHERS ANTHOLOGY.** A multi-cultural group of Lesbian mothers seeks contributions of prose (3,000 word limit) or poetry (5 page limit) to share our experiences, to empower each other, and to teach those who know so little of our struggles. A special invitation to those who do not consider themselves writers or have never sent work for publication. Copy to be typed, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Deadline: June 1, 1984. Lock Box 8, 5831 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609.

**GALLERY 345/ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, INC.**, opens Oct. 11 with a special exhibit of the Women's Peace Encampment at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York. The exhibit depicts various events leading to the Encampment as well as activities that took place throughout the summer. This exhibit will become the property of the Women's Encampment for its use and to begin to build an archive of women's activities. Part of the exhibit will be documentation by about eight photographers who followed the activities at the Encampment. In addition, there will be a special women's room. We are asking that women who participated in the Encampment send us snapshots, statements, banners, buttons or whatever they feel represents their feelings, likes and dislikes about their experiences at the camp. When the exhibit opens, we will have a scrapbook where people can comment about the show and Encampment. Articles should be loaned to the exhibit for at least one year or be gifts to the Encampment. One article per woman will be accepted. Two if it is a photo with statement, letter or poem. You can dedicate items to another woman, possibly someone you met or a woman who could not be there.

The exhibit may travel later this year and next to major cities and small communities in the U.S. and Europe. To bring this exhibit to your community contact us. To travel we need financial assistance. Donations can be made to Art For Social Change, Inc. The Gallery is run by women and has been a meeting place for the New York Women's Pentagon Action since it began. There is no deadline for submissions to the show.

For info please contact: Gallery 345, 345 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 10012, (212) 535-4797.

### SOME KEY VVW

### DISTRIBUTION POINTS

#### Northampton:

The Store 24  
Womonyre Books  
Barts  
Smith College  
Thorne's Marketplace  
Broadside Books

#### Amherst:

Barts  
Yellow Sun Food Co-op  
Food For Thought Books  
Goliard Bookshop  
Classe Cafe  
UMass  
Pippins  
Jones Library

#### South Amherst:

El Greco Pizza  
Hampshire College

#### North Amherst:

Daisy's

#### Sunderland:

7 - 11  
Pizza Place  
John & Rudy's

#### So. Deerfield:

Cumberland Farms

#### Greenfield:

Book Swap Cafe  
Green River Cafe  
Public Library  
GCC  
Paradise Records  
The Storehouse

#### South Hadley:

Mt. Holyoke College